

**Listing of the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

- 1    1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented system analysis and design method for use in a complex business environment characterized by a set of tightly linked business processes comprising the steps of:
  - 4                 capturing in a framework a world view of ~~a~~-business decisions that occur in a business process~~/or a business application software system~~, wherein a the world view is defined by business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and an underlying model used in ~~the~~ business decision~~and/or the~~ application software system, wherein a BDML (Business Decision Markup Language) is used to implement the framework for specifying the world view of the ~~a~~-business decisions ~~and/or a business application software system~~; and
  - 11                 using the framework to specify and document each of the business decisions ~~and/or business application software system~~ in the complex environment.
2. (Previously Canceled)
- 1    3. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented system analysis and design~~ method of recited in claim 1, wherein the BDML is used for creation and maintenance of a knowledge base of business decisions and processes within an organization.
- 1    4. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented system analysis and design~~ method of recited in claim 1, wherein the BDML is used for the publication of the functional specification of a business application software system, the world view of a technical research paper in the area of business decisions and its findings.
- 1    5. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented system analysis and design~~ method of recited in claim 1, further comprising providing a BDML processor and

3 conducting systematic documentation of said business decision's business objectives,  
4 constraints, assumptions, data, and underlying model in business processes, wherein  
5 said conducting systematic documentation includes forming the BDML as is machine-  
6 readable by the a BDML processor and as well as readable by human users so that it  
7 can be used for systematic documentation of business objectives, constraints,  
8 assumptions, data, and underlying model in business processes and/or application  
9 software systems.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented system analysis and design~~  
2 method ~~of recited in~~ in claim 1, wherein the BDML supports XML (eXtensible Markup  
3 Language) based standards for ~~business-to-business business to business~~ exchanges.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A BDML (Business Decision Markup Language) processor  
2 comprising:  
3       a syntax processor that checks the syntax correctness and syntax  
4 consistency within an individual and between different documents written in BDML;  
5       a logic processor that checks logical consistency between different  
6 documents written in BDML, each document representing a business decision in  
7 terms of the decision's business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and  
8 underlying model among the different documents, wherein the check for logical  
9 consistency includes checking for logical consistency between their respective  
10 business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and underlying models; and  
11       a knowledge-based processor including a knowledge base of business  
12 decisions, common choices for their decision support models and commercially  
13 available decision support systems, wherein the knowledge-based processor provides  
14 providing suggestions for a set of BDML documents to improve consistency using the  
15 knowledge base.